

POPULIST HOUSE ILLEGAL.
REPUBLICANS SUSTAINED BY THE COURT.

A FORMAL DECLARATION THAT HELPS TO
SETTLE THE CONTROVERSY IN KANSAS

—STRANGE PRAYER OF A POP.

LAW CHAPLAIN.

Topeka, Kan., Feb. 18.—Judge Z. T. Hazen, of the Circuit Court, this morning sustained the motion of the Republican House for a permanent injunction restraining the State Treasurer from paying any warrants issued by authority of the Legislative Appropriation bill passed by the Populist House. This is virtually a recognition of the constitutionality of the Republican House, and the members are jubilant over the victory. Attorney-General Little appeared on the State yesterday and filed a motion for the removal of the case, on the ground that, as the proceedings were instituted by the County-Attorney in the name of the State, they were instituted without state authority. He alone has authority to begin such proceedings. The motion of the Attorney-General was overruled yesterday, and the injunction was made permanent. The Attorney-General filed notice of an appeal to the Supreme Court. The Republicans were represented in the case by Chester L. Lee, David Overmeyer and Representative Garver, while W. C. Welsh represented the Populists.

The majority of the Populist members had already received their money from the Auditor before the injunction proceedings were brought; \$20,000 was paid out in pecuniary dues and salaries. It is a matter of much interest as to how the state can recover this money in the event of the Supreme Court sustaining Judge Hazen's decision that the bill under the authority of which the payments were made has no standing in law. Judge Webb, T. F. Gaver, Chester Long and other prominent attorneys agree in their opinion that the Auditor's warrants were responsible for the Commonwealth correspondingly depressed, for they had expected a verdict of manslaughter. O'Donnell was taken back to jail, and an application for release on bail will be made on the charges of riot and treason still pending against him.

This ends the Homestead trials until the March term of court. It is possible that all the other cases may go on until the June term of court, and the Auditor may have to wait until then to be admitted to bail. The arguments for new trials in the Douglas and the anarchist cases will be made on Monday.

O'DONNELL DECLARED NOT GUILTY.

THE HOMESTEAD STRIKE LEADER ACQUITTED
OF THE CHARGE OF MURDER.

Pittsburg, Feb. 18.—After having been out all night the jury in the murder case against Hugh O'Donnell brought in a verdict of not guilty. He was accused of being an active participant in the Homestead riot, during which T. J. Connors, a Pinkerton detective, received the wound which cost his life.

O'Donnell, when brought into court, was a trifle paler than usual, and he scanned the faces of the jurors anxiously as they filed in. He was ordered to stand up, and the verdict was read. As he heard the words "not guilty" a wave of color spread over his face, his eyes became fixed for a moment, and he nodded as though about to fall. Recovering himself he stepped from the prisoner's box to his wife and niece, whom he embraced. The Homesteaders were all greatly pleased with the verdict, and the attorneys for the Commonwealth correspondingly depressed, for they had expected a verdict of manslaughter.

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THE GENERAL OUTLOOK NOT AS GOOD AS AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR.

Cleaveland, Feb. 18.—Specially—A review of the crop situation shows that for the last ten days the country has experienced in all its importance a rain-growing area all sorts of weather—sunshine and showers, followed by freezing and thawing, driving snowstorms, ground hails, covered with ice here, crops in one part of the country beginning to show signs of life, and just the opposite conditions in other sections. Texas reports that the wheat is growing finely and farmers have gone to ploughing for their cotton and corn crops. Kentucky the early sown wheat is looking as well as last February. Reports from Southern Illinois show that the early sown wheat seems to be still in good condition, but some reports also show that more or less of the wheat has been lifted out of the ground by the ice. As a whole, prospects are not as encouraging as a year ago. In both Central and South Illinois the crop went into winter quarters with a solid freeze. This has just gone off, leaving the wheat bare. In Northern Indiana more or less of the wheat is covered with ice and snow. The general opinion seems to be that wheat has been severely injured by the ice. In Southern Indiana they have been having some warm spring-like weather and wheat has begun to grow, but compared with last year at this time wheat is not in nearly as good condition. In North Ohio there are still no signs of growth. In the southern part of the State the wheat is just beginning to grow. In Missouri late-sown wheat is more or less injured. Kansas has suffered ever since last fall from drought and considerable wheat has not sprouted on the boards of trade and the produce exchanges of the western part of the State. All indications are that the Kansas crop will not be as good as last year.

Reports covering practically the whole State of California show that the prospects for the coming crop run from good to indifferent, and even very poor, according to locality and condition of soil, on all the light uplands in the north and pretty generally throughout the large valley of the San Joaquin the crop is doing well, but in Sacramento Valley and on the central heavy lands there has been a large excess of moisture, and this has caused more or less drowning out of young wheat.

J. STEERLING MORTON AND THE FAEMERS.

HE SAYS THEY HAVE WRONG IDEAS ABOUT
OPTIONS AND OTHER THINGS AND HE
WILL TRY TO EDUCATE THEM.

J. Sterling Morton, of Nebraska, who is to succeed Jeremiah Black as the Secretary of Agriculture, was in the city yesterday, and when seen by a reporter for The Tribune he said that one of his first official acts, or one of the first things he intended to do after getting his office, would be to let the farmer know that his ideas needed changing, and that anti-option legislation was injurious to all those engaged in agricultural pursuits.

The Anti-option bill of Senator Washburn, instead of doing any farmer any good, would result in his injury, said Mr. Morton. What the farmer needs, he only knows it, is increased speculation in agricultural products, instead of a law to stop speculation.

The farmers, instead of being supporters of Mr. Washburn's bill, should be the chief ones to oppose it, because the farmer would be injured more than anybody else if the option became a law, on the boards of trade and the produce exchanges, of the country products in agricultural products is carried on, and the result is that the prices of these products are stimulated by that speculation. But a stop to speculation in wheat, corn, cotton, pork, etc., and the result will be to decrease the farmer's business. If there were no boards of trade or exchanges, the big millers of the Northwest could dictate prices to the farmers, and, of course, the latter would suffer.

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